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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.:	10/680,568
Filing Date:	October 7, 2003
Applicant:	Sivakumar Ramasamy, et al.
Group Art Unit:	1775
Examiner:	John J. Zimmerman
Title:	WELD BRACKET
Attorney Docket:	0275M-000667

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF DR. SIVAKUMAR RAMASAMY UNDER 37 CFR 1.132

Considered.
/JZ/
5/13/2008

Sir:

I, Dr. Sivakumar Ramasamy, state as follows based on my personal knowledge:

1. I have a doctoral degree in Welding Engineering from Ohio State University.

2. I have worked for The Black & Decker Corporation ("Black & Decker") as a R & D Manager, and have worked at Black & Decker for 10 years.

3. I have worked in the manufacturing/welding industry for 12 years.

4. The purpose of the present invention was to create a flange to a structure fastening system where a flange is welded to a thin sheet of metal having a thickness of less than 1.2 mm.

5. Traditionally, a bracket, end welded to sheet metal having a thickness of less than 1.2 mm suffers from a burn-through failure mode during welding.

6. It is the intent of the claimed invention to overcome the aforementioned failure mode.

7. To overcome this failure mode, an L-shaped bracket is provided having a body portion with a thickness greater than 1.2 mm and a flange portion coupled perpendicular to the body portion.

8. The flange portion has a depth equal or greater to the thickness of the sheet metal surface plus the second thickness, and which is less than 5.